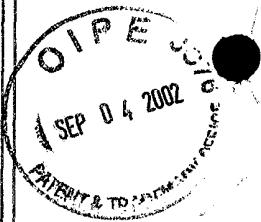


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Ranju RALHAN

Serial No. : 09/749,778

Art Unit : 1634

Filed : December 28, 2000

Examiner : Sally A. SAKELARIS

For : Polymorphism in p21 waf1/cip1 Gene, Association with Human Cancer and
Uses Related Thereto

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir :

The Office Action mailed August 5, 2002 required restriction of the claims, as follows:

- Group I of claim 1, drawn to a single nucleotide polymorphism, classified in Class 435, subclass 6;
- Group II of claims 2-7 and 13-16, drawn to a method for screening by genotyping through PCR with nucleic acids, classified in Class 435, subclass 91.2;
- Group III of Claim 8, drawn to a method of detecting a variant protein, classified in Class 530, subclass 300 and 350;
- Group IV of Claim 9 and 10, drawn to a method of pre-screening through peptide binding assays, classified in Class 435, subclass 7.1;
- Group V of Claim 11 and 12, drawn to a method of regulating expression and identifying drug targets by measuring in vitro transcription of nucleic acids, classified in Class 514, subclass 44.

Applicant hereby elects Group II, of claims 2-7 and 13-16 for prosecution in this application. The election is made with traverse. Applicant reserves the right to file divisional applications to the non-elected claims.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Restriction Requirement because the claims are inextricably intertwined and should be examined together, relative to the involved single-nucleotide polymorphism. Applicant points out that Group I, Group II and Group IV are in the same class and suggests their examination together. In addition, Group III lists claim 8 which depends from claim 2 and further limits the method defined by claim 2. Accordingly, Applicant submits that at least claim 8 should be rejoined and examined along with the claims of Group II. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

For the reasons given above, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for examination.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to Deposit Account No. 02-4300 and credit any overpayment to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

SMITH, GAMBRELL & RUSSELL, LLP

By:

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Date : September 4 2002